

# Foster Area Business Association

During the recession of the early 80's the Foster Area Boosters found themselves losing members. As businesses closed, the group slowly dissolved. Then two years ago, the Portland Development Commission attempted to reinstate the group so that businesses in the Foster area could have a unified voice in concerns such as zoning problems, business goals, and improvements to attract and keep customers while developing and promoting the area.

Grover Sparkman of Fairfield Realty was last year's president of the newly formed Foster Area Business Association. This year's president is Jim Elle of Elle's Thriftway. Both agreed that after witnessing the success of area neighborhood groups, there was a definite need for a new association to help improve the area and make

it a viable shopping destination for people around the community.

Members of the newly formed organization realize that more gets accomplished when businesses are working as a group rather than as separate individuals. "Though we don't have a lot of money," says Sparkman, "we try to select between one and three charitable organizations a year and donate to them." Past recipients have included Loaves and Fishes and the YMCA.

If you have a business located in or around the Foster area, and would like to become more involved and informed about community business concerns, contact Jim Elle at 775-8643. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at The Copper Penny, located at 5932 SE 92nd Ave. Annual dues are \$35.